

Algerian delegation in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — A high-level Algerian delegation, including the number two to President Chadli Benjedid in the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), arrived in Tunisia on Tuesday, the official TAP news agency said. Monahmad Sherif Messaadia and Foreign Minister Ahmad Taieb Benjedid were met at Tunis-Carthage airport by Prime Minister Rashid Sfar and other government ministers, TAP said. Mr. Messaadia said his talks in Tunis fell within the framework of regular contacts between the FLN and Tunisia's ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD). The trip follows a summit this month under the auspices of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd between Algeria and Morocco who are at odds over the Western Sahara. Algeria backs Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for the territory's independence.

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جريدة الأردن تنشر يومياً مساحة مفتوحة عن المؤسسة الصحافية العربية - الرأي

Israelis unwilling to return land

TEL AVIV (R) — Nearly half of Israel's Jewish population is unwilling to hand back any part of the occupied West Bank in a peace settlement according to an opinion poll published Tuesday. The poll in the Ma'ariv newspaper noted that 46.4 per cent of 1,236 Israelis questioned last month do not want to return any West Bank land. The poll indicated that only 32 per cent of those questioned were willing to give back certain areas of the West Bank, 14.4 per cent would return all occupied land excluding East Jerusalem and 4.4 per cent would concede Jerusalem as well. It showed 24 per cent willing to freeze Jewish settlements in occupied territories while 38 per cent would refuse to do so. Some 60,000 Israelis have settled among 750,000 Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967.

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Israeli planes fly over Bekaa

King, Mubarak review efforts for peace talks

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday held talks believed related to efforts towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices.

The two leaders held two rounds of talks attended by senior officials from both sides. The first round was held immediately after the King's arrival here Tuesday afternoon and the second was held after an iftar President Mubarak hosted in honour of the King and the delegation accom-



His Majesty King Hussein is received upon arrival in Cairo on a short working visit by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday (Photo by Farouk Ibrahim)

(Continued on page 3)

Tehran says Syria to continue support

LONDON (R) — Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara on Tuesday promised Syria's continued support for Iran in its war against Iraq, Tehran Radio reported. "Syrian President Hafez Al Assad instructed me to inform your excellency that despite all the efforts undertaken in Baghdad... Syria will always stand beside the Islamic revolution of Iran," Mr. Sharara quoted as telling Iranian President Ali Khamenei. Mr. Sharara arrived in Tehran earlier on Tuesday with a message for Mr. Khamenei from Mr. Assad.

Wounded ex-minister of Egypt heads for treatment in U.S.

CAIRO (R) — Former Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Abu Basha, wounded in an assassination attempt last week, left Tuesday for treatment in the United States. Mr. Abu Basha, 65, interior minister from 1982 to 1984, was shot in the leg and arm by two bearded gunmen last Tuesday. Police said Monday they had arrested two men suspected of involvement in the attack in which two other persons, one a child, were wounded. Mr. Abu Basha played a key role in rounding up members of the outlawed Al Jihad fundamentalist group after it was accused of planning the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Pakistan says 2 killed in Afghan raid

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Tuesday Afghan jets had again bombed and rocketed its north-western border region killing two children and wounding eight other people. A government statement said strong protests were lodged on Tuesday with the Afghan chargé d'affaires in Islamabad against the "unprovoked attacks" on Sunday in Sindh. The statement said that he had met an Iranian delegation in Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Murphy arrived early Tuesday from Qatar hours after a bomb exploded in a commercial district of Kuwait City, the sixth blast this year in the country.

He had a one-hour meeting with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and a two-hour session with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah which he said centred on the Gulf conflict and Middle East peace moves.

Mr. Murphy denied to reporters after the meetings that he had met Iranian officials when he

Shamir vows to reject peace conference despite Shultz appeal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose government faces collapse over a proposed Middle East peace conference, vowed Tuesday to reject the U.S.-backed plan "by all the ways and means at our disposal."

Mr. Shamir blamed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has proposed the conference, for trying to sway the public with "the magic influence of the word 'peace,'" and for willfully forcing a breakup of the coalition government.

Responding to Mr. Shamir's comments, Mr. Peres said he saw little point in reconvening a cabinet debate on the issue and opened talks with religious party leaders to seek support for early elections, Israel Radio reported.

The increasingly bitter rhetoric by the two leaders during a one-day recess in a cabinet debate and discussions Middle East peace.

Israeli officials said earlier Tuesday that U.S. Secretary of

State George Shultz has told Israeli leaders that they should agree to take part in the proposed conference.

On Monday, Israel's inner cabinet deadlocked at its first formal debate over a Middle East conference, with both sides of the 10-member forum refusing to budge from their pre-stated positions.

A second inner cabinet meeting was scheduled for Wednesday. The forum, which often decides major issues on behalf of the cabinet, is evenly split between Mr. Peres' Labour Party and Mr. Shamir's Likud bloc.

Mr. Shamir's comments in a radio interview Tuesday came as Likud ministers voted unanimously to support the prime minister's condemnation of Mr. Peres' proposal for a broad international forum to convene and discuss Middle East peace.

Israeli officials said earlier Tuesday that U.S. Secretary of

(Continued on page 3)

Murphy holds talks in Kuwait after denying meeting Iranians

visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last Saturday on the second leg of a Gulf tour.

The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Aam, quoting senior unnamed sources in Abu Dhabi, said Mr. Murphy had a four-hour meeting with an Iranian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Mr. Besharati had talks with UAE officials on that day, but Mr. Murphy said: "I did not meet him during my visit to Abu Dhabi."

According to Al Rai Al Aam the American envoy informed the Iranians of Washington's stand on the Iran-Iraq war, now well into its seventh year.

In his subsequent visit to Baghdad, it said, Mr. Murphy briefed Iraqi leaders on the Iranian viewpoint.

Dynamite attacks persist in Beirut, cabinet crisis lingers on

BEIRUT (AP) — Police said unidentified bombers lobbed four dynamite from a speeding car in west Beirut during Monday night. The dynamite exploded harmlessly around garbage dumps.

That raised the number of bombings since Syria deployed 5,000 troops in the city's western sector Feb. 22 to 93. The Syrians moved in then to quell factional fighting and end three years of anarchic militia rule.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which appear aimed at discrediting Syria's efforts to restore order in west Beirut.

Syria also has 25,000 troops in east and north Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate. The emissaries returned to Beirut Monday to brief Mr. Gemayel. They will return to Damascus over the weekend for talks on political reforms to end Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war.

Syria has also stepped in to seek a resolution to a cabinet crisis triggered by Prime Minister Rashid Karim's resignation May 4.

U.S. to return \$450m to Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will give back to Iran some \$450 million in frozen assets, as ordered by a special tribunal in The Hague, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Tuesday.

He told reporters the handing over is likely to actually physically take place tomorrow.

Redman said there was some \$520 million in the account at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York representing overpayments by Iran on bank loans.

Of that, just over \$450 million would be returned to Iran, the rest being held pending the resolution of outstanding claims as agreed by the tribunal, he said.

The \$520 million represents the remnants of some \$3.7 billion of Iranian assets frozen by then President Jimmy Carter in retaliation for the seizure of the hostages.

McFarlane concedes raising contra aid despite denials

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane on Tuesday admitted he helped raise money from foreign countries for Nicaragua's "contra" rebels despite his previous denials.

Israeli officials said Mr. Shultz wrote the U.S. was backing Mr. Peres because Arab states said they would enter direct talks only under conference auspices. They quoted him writing the conference would have no powers to impose solutions.

(Continued on page 3)

"Murphy will also transfer views of Iran and Iraq to his government when he returns to Washington to offer an initiative... at the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution seeking to compel the two warring parties to stop the conflict," the newspaper said.

The grim-faced ex-Marine was being grilled for the second day before a joint Senate-house panel investigating the sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to the rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist government.

Mr. McFarlane, 49, who served in the White House from 1983 to December 1985, on Monday detailed how a nation identified only as country 2 — widely reported to be Saudi Arabia — donated more than \$32 million to the contras, mostly after Congress barred official U.S. aid in October 1984 (See page 2).

House chief counsel John Nields on Tuesday confronted Mr. McFarlane with his December statement.

Mr. McFarlane said then: "I did not solicit any country at any time to make contributions to the contras. I have seen the reports that various countries have... and I have no idea of the extent of that or anything else."

When Mr. Nields said Mr. McFarlane did, in fact, have a good idea of country 2's funding of the contras, Mr. McFarlane replied: "yes."

Asked if, as he said on Tuesday, he had a hand in obtaining contributions from that country, he again replied "yes."

When the lawyer noted he had not said that to the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. McFarlane replied: "No... this is not as full an account as I could have given."

Tuesday's session opened with an announcement by Senator Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Senate panel, that a long-lost \$10 million donation to the contras from the sultan of Brunei finally had been traced.

He said the contribution, made in August 1986, wound up in the wrong Swiss bank account instead.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan denies agreeing to limit Soviet role in peace conference

Khatib rejects Tindemans' remarks over PLO saying it is premature to discuss participants

Saudi Arabia and Egypt restate support for PLO

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib on Tuesday denied that Jordan had made any commitment limiting the Soviet role in an international conference on the Middle East and reiterated the Kingdom's stand that Moscow should have full participation in the proposed forum to work out a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a press statement made to news agencies, Mr. Khatib said a report carried by the New York Times said that Jordan had made a commitment to the U.S. and Israel to limit the Soviet role in the conference was not true.

"I wish to restate Jordan's position represented in calling for the conference and inviting all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), with full Soviet participation as one of the five permanent members of the Security Council," Mr. Khatib was quoted as saying.

In its report the New York Times, quoting diplomatic sources, claimed that in addition to committing itself to limiting

the Soviet role in what was described as an agreement among Jordan, Egypt, the U.S. and Israel over the proposed conference. Jordan had categorically denied the reports. His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview published last week that these reports amounted to "mudslinging" which had not helped the Kingdom's efforts to advance Middle East peace efforts.

In a statement carried by Reuters on Monday, Mr. Khatib said it was premature to talk about who would attend the proposed conference before Israel accepted the principle of convening it.

Commenting on remarks on PLO representation made by Belgian Foreign Minister Lee Tindemans in Israel earlier in the day, Mr. Khatib reaffirmed Jordan's stand that all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict should be invited to attend the international conference. "To talk about who should participate in the conference is premature and indulging in imagination, until Israel announces its acceptance of

(Continued on page 5)

Central Bank warns

against using local funds for investments abroad

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) issued a statement on Tuesday warning banks and financial businesses in Jordan against investing locally-raised funds in foreign stock markets or foreign currency without its prior approval.

The statement also urged investors and members of the public to invest their money in local businesses and projects, which, it said, would yield good returns and help strengthen the national economy.

The statement said that the CBJ had noticed that a number of financial companies had been approaching citizens through letters and agents, urging them to deposit their savings with them for investments in businesses abroad where, these companies claim.

Jordan gets \$26m World Bank loan for urban projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The World Bank will grant Jordan a \$26 million loan to help finance the country's third urban development project, expected to cost \$93 million, according to Dr. Hisham Al Zagha, director general of the Urban Development Department (UDD).

The bank agreed to the loan following talks he conducted with its officials during his visit to Washington, Dr. Zagha said.

He said that the UDD will allocate \$31 million for the infrastructure of the project and the building of housing units for families of limited income, \$32 million for building schools, health centres, community centres and public utilities, and a total \$10 million

will be loaned to beneficiaries to help them purchase building materials.

The government will contribute to the project by supplying UDD with \$21 million, and the Housing Bank will give a loan of \$29 million, while the rest of the UDD's share in the project will be raised from the department's own resources, Dr. Zagha said.

The third development project, Dr. Zagha explained, entails building 5,000 housing units in Aqaba, Amman, Zarqa and Tafileh and also 2,000 housing units in number of other regions. He said that nearly 44,000 people will benefit from the housing units and the project will create 10,000 jobs.

Soviet treaty to include space weapons

ROME (Agencies) — The Soviet Union is preparing to present a draft treaty on intercontinental nuclear missiles that will include a ban on deployment of weapons in space, the chief Soviet negotiator to superpower arms talks said Tuesday.

Yuri Vorontsov told a news conference in Rome that a draft accord to halve intercontinental nuclear arsenals put forward by the United States at the Geneva talks last week lacked the important element of space weapons.

Asked if, as he said on Tuesday, he had a hand in obtaining contributions from that country, he again replied "yes."

When the lawyer noted he had not said that to the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. McFarlane replied: "No... this is not as full an account as I could have given."

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extract elements that could be contained in the Soviet offer, but did not say when the draft would be presented.

In Moscow, a Soviet spokesman said the Soviet Union had five objections to the U.S. draft treaty on strategic offensive nuclear weapons.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the Kremlin was studying the U.S. draft and concluded that it did not fully match tentative accords reached at last October's Reykjavik summit.

The U.S. draft provides for a ceiling of 6,000 warheads on the strategic forces of both superpowers and a limit of 1,600 for vehicles capable of carrying the weapons.

Gerasimov listed Moscow's reservations as:

1. The U.S. proposal that the

missiles take place over seven years.

2. The U.S. proposal for "sub-limits" on how many warheads could be fixed on a single type of launcher.

3. The absence from the U.S. draft of proposed limits on long-range sea-launched cruise missiles.

4. The absence from the U.S. draft of provisions for talks on the future elimination of all strategic offensive weapons.

5. The failure of the U.S. draft to draw a connection between cuts in strategic arms and curbs on space defence systems.

Gerasimov made clear Moscow

viewed the last reservation as crucial, saying: "In our view, preventing the arms race from spreading into space is an important condition of a strategic arms agreement."

McFarlane speaks of Reagan's efforts to keep contras supplied

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House aide Robert McFarlane has provided new insights into President Reagan's personal efforts to keep aid flowing to Nicaragua's contra rebels at a time Congress had banned such support.

Mr. McFarlane, in five hours of testimony to a joint congressional committee Monday, also said fired White House aide Oliver North had told him the diversion to the contras of profits from the covert sale of U.S. arms to Iran was sanctioned from above.

Investigators have said the issue would probably be pursued when the 49-year-old ex-marine, Mr. Reagan's national security adviser until he resigned in late 1985, is cross-examined Tuesday on the second day of his testimony.

Questioned Monday by Senate chief counsel Arthur Liman, Mr. McFarlane told of a conversation with Col. North last Nov. 25 hours after Col. North had been fired from the National Security Council (NSC) for allegedly masterminding the diversion scheme.

"Ollie, it was approved, wasn't it?" he said as he asked Col. North. "And he said, 'Yes, Bud, it was approved. You know I wouldn't do anything that wasn't approved.'"

But Mr. McFarlane, opening the second week of hearings into

Mr. Reagan's worst political crisis, said he did not ask Col. North whether he meant Mr. Reagan, John Poindexter — Col. North's boss at the NSC who resigned the same day he was fired — or another official.

Mr. Reagan has repeatedly denied knowledge of the diversion of funds to the contras. The president has also denied he directed or knew of official U.S. efforts to keep aid flowing to the contras during the congressional arms shipments.

Shortly after Saudi King Fahd paid an official visit to Washington in February 1985, Mr. McFarlane said he learned that contribution would be increased to \$2 million a month.

Mr. McFarlane said Mr. Reagan ordered continued efforts to improve the image of the contras and assure them of administration support, "to help them hold body and soul together" until Congress again agreed to such them.

Mr. McFarlane gave examples of White House involvement in the contra supply effort, including Mr. Reagan's personal intervention with the head of state of a Central American country — identified by committee sources as Honduras — to unblock a shipment of arms to the contras.

He also said that during his term as national security adviser from October 1983 to December 1985 he had kept Mr. Reagan fully informed of third country contributions to the contras.

Mr. McFarlane described how one country — referred to in testimony as "country two" — but believed to be Saudi Arabia had contributed \$1 million a month in 1984.

Shortly after Saudi King Fahd paid an official visit to Washington in February 1985, Mr. McFarlane said he learned that contribution would be increased to \$2 million a month.

Mr. McFarlane said Mr. Reagan had reacted with "gratitude and satisfaction but not surprise" to the news just two days after he met King Fahd.

The Saudi embassy said in a statement Sunday the issue was not raised at that meeting.

Mr. McFarlane said he was asked by reporters Sunday whether he had listened to Mr. McFarlane's testimony, "No. And I'm not going to make any comment."

The White House issued a statement denying once again that Mr. Reagan had broken or condoned the breaking of any laws in supporting the contras.

Mr. McFarlane was expected to be cross-examined by the House of Representatives' chief counsel John Nields, who committee sources said was unlikely to subject him to tough grilling.

This would be in part, they said, out of concern for Mr. McFarlane who attempted suicide in February in distress over what he has termed his mistakes in the Iran-contra operation.

The hearing Monday provided insight into the kind of pressure Mr. McFarlane had come under during his involvement in the Iran arms shipments.

Were you asked to play God and choose one hostage?" Mr. Liman asked, referring to a call from an Israeli official in 1985 who told him Iran had agreed to free one of several U.S. hostages in exchange for 500 Tow anti-tank missiles.

"Yes, and I asked for Mr. Buckley," Mr. McFarlane replied.

William Buckley, CIA station chief in Beirut, was seized in March 1984. It was later learned he had died in captivity about three months before Mr. McFarlane's choice.

Mr. McFarlane said Dr. Benjamin Weir, a churchman kidnapped in the Lebanese capital in May 1984, was released instead.

3 states to discuss Libya's role in Pacific

PONT MORESBY (R) — Papua New Guinea announced that it would host a summit meeting of three Melanesian South Pacific island states to discuss growing discord over Libya's interest in the region.

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of the Iranian visit was to revive the trade of U.S. arms for American hostages held in Lebanon, which had collapsed the previous year after a trip to Tehran by former secret service agent Robert McFarlane.

Gen. Secord said a nine-point plan drawn up at the secret sessions envisaged a high level meeting of U.S. and Iranian officials to seek better relations between the two countries.

The immediate result was the shipment of 500 Tow anti-tank missiles to Iran for which the United States had been promised the release

King congratulates history-making doctors

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday received gynaecologist Zaid Al Keilani and haematologist Abdulla Oweidi Al Abadi and congratulated them for their recent medical achievements in the area of test-tube babies and bone-marrow transplants, respectively.

The doctors carried out Jordan's first ever test-tube operation and bone-marrow transplants during the past two weeks.

The King, who received the two veterans at the Royal Court, hours before his departure for Cairo, wished the two doctors the best of luck in their efforts to develop the status of medical services in the Kingdom.

Dr. Keilani, who headed a

team of doctors for work on Jordan's first test-tube babies' project two years ago, successfully supervised the birth of four test-tube babies born to two Jordanian women recently.

Three out of the four babies survived and are in normal condition, while one died 14 hours after the operation due to general weakness in his health.

Dr. Oweidi supervised a team of eight medical surgeons during Jordan's two bone-marrow transplants which were carried out successfully on two Jordanian citizens. Both patients are reported to be in stable condition, according to medical sources from the University of Jordan Hospital.



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday receives Dr. Zaid Al Keilani (left), who supervised the first successful test-tube birth in Jordan, and Dr. Abdulla Oweidi Al Abadi, who performed the first

Jordan to resume flights to Beirut

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ) has decided to resume flights to Lebanon, suspended, for two years, but resumption "is contingent" on guarantees of security at Beirut Airport and the safety of the passengers and aircraft, a spokesman for the airline said on Tuesday.

RJ will start operating its Amman-Beirut-Amman route only after "we are 100 per cent sure" of all the safety factors involved in the service, said the spokesman, who spoke on condition of the issue.

The Jordanian airline ceased its Beirut service after Lebanese Shi'ite gunmen destroyed an RJ Boeing 727 aircraft with explosives and bombs on the airport tarmac on June 12, 1985.

The spokesman, however, could not give a definite date for the first scheduled RJ flight bound for Beirut. "This decision would be announced as soon as we complete a thorough evaluation of the issue."

While RJ stopped its flights to Beirut, Lebanon's Middle East Airline (MEA) maintained its Beirut-Amman-Beirut link with four flights a week until the airport was closed down due to the deteriorating situation there.

Beirut's International Airport re-opened on Monday following a 98-day stoppage.

MEA suspended its flights on all routes on Feb. 1, when insurance companies withdrew passenger coverage after artillery shells struck the airport. The main rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia warned MEA not to use the airline's passengers.

MEA Vice President Assad Khourshid was quoted by Reuter on Tuesday as saying that MEA insurers were charging the company an extra \$150 per passenger, forcing it to postpone resuming flights on short routes where the surcharge exceeds the fare.

He said departing passengers would be charged an extra \$86 while arriving passengers would have to pay \$100. MEA would absorb the rest of the surcharge.

Contacted by telephone, a spokeswoman for MEA's Amman office could not give a date for the arrival of the airline's first flight to Amman. But, she said, it was more likely that MEA's first arrival in Amman would be this Monday.

This will depend on "whether the airline reaches another agreement with its insurers over the surcharge and the fare of short routes," she said.

She added that MEA will continue operating its four-flights a week schedule during the peak season and might reduce the number of flights to three per week during winter.

RSS to exchange experts with West Asian institute

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Dr. Jawad Al Anani returned to Amman Tuesday after a two-day visit to Iraq where he signed a protocol in cooperation between the RSS and the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ECSWA).

Dr. Anani said in a statement that ECSWA was established by the United Nations General Assembly as a way of promoting the social and economic development of countries in the region.

The new protocol provides for such cooperation and coordination, and also research work in this field.

The protocol provides for an exchange of expertise between the two sides, visits by experts, officials and researchers, and holding joint seminars, training courses and conferences that are aimed at promoting economic and social development, Dr. Anani said.

He said also that the two sides will cooperate in developing

manpower skills involved in economic and social development projects and will conduct joint research work.

The protocol calls on both sides to give priority to technological and scientific fields of work in relation to economic and social sectors and the development of industry and renewable energy. Dr. Anani added.

The two sides will work out further details of their joint programmes through specialised teams and will cooperate in finding financial resources for their programmes and activities. Dr. Anani pointed out. He said that the protocol's mandate is indefinite but either side has the right to terminate it. Dr. Anani said he signed the protocol with Dr. Mohammad Sa'd Nahulsi, ECSWA's director general.

During his two-day stay in Baghdad, Dr. Anani said he met with the president of the Iraqi Scientific Research Council and discussed bilateral cooperation.

Shamir vows to reject conference

(Continued from page 1)

His message reaffirmed a 12-year-old U.S. commitment not to enter contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) unless they renounce "terror" and publicly accept U.N. resolutions implicitly recognising Israel.

Mr. Shultz wrote that he understood Israeli conditions for a Soviet presence at any conference: the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel and increased Soviet Jewish emigration.

Mr. Peres' departure for Washington after the inner cabinet meeting Wednesday, now appeared set after several days of doubt, officials said.

On Monday, the United States declined to publicly take sides in the Israeli government's dispute.

Asked by reporters if Mr. Peres had U.S. support in his efforts to bring about the conference, State Department spokesman Charles Redman declined to give a direct answer.

Asked if Washington was neutral in the debate, he said:

"We're consulting both with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres on a wide range of regional issues that includes the peace process."

Queen opens Friends of Children Club's book and craft exhibition

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday led scores of children for the opening ceremony of an exhibition on children's books and art work.

During the opening ceremony, Her Majesty Queen Noor inspected various items on display and attended the Arabic puppet show performed by members of the Friends of the Children Club (FCC).

She also toured the site at the park where a new children's theatre will soon be built.

On display were Arabic and English fairy tales, art and colouring books, dictionaries, and historical stories at the exhibition being held at Jabal Luweibdeh's park on Tuesday.

The exhibition includes books, on such subjects as mountains, forests, planes, space, electricity, diet and nutrition, and also a display of art work and handicrafts made by Jordanian children. All, including the children's crafts, are available for purchase.

The idea behind the children's books and crafts fair is to "promote reading and introduce children to new books, and in order to develop their artistic capabilities and manual dexterity, and to encourage them to develop hobbies in the area of the arts and crafts," according to an information leaflet obtained from the FCC.

The exhibition includes a large variety of more than 1,500 children's books and adult books on child development. It also includes children's creations of handicrafts, such as colourful ceramic souvenirs, plastic beads, glass and wood paintings, miniature models, glass and copper engravings, fabric painting and stuffed dolls. Educational toys and games in Arabic and English are also on display.

The FCC also supplies songs, and play scripts to schools, encourages children's libraries in educational institutions, and plants trees in children's forests (with cooperation from the Ministry of Agriculture).

The club also cooperates with media institutions to produce children's programmes, and with official parties to establish children's cultural centres.

The fair, open to the public until May 18, also contains screening of children's films and cartoons, story readings, and puppet shows in Arabic and English.

The Arabic show, "The Story-Teller and his Strange Donkey," which was performed at the opening ceremony, shows daily at 10 a.m., 4:30 and 8 p.m.

During the fair, the English puppet show, "The Witch and the Dancing Bells," is performed at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. (entrance fee for each show is 500 fils).

The fair is open from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and from 4-8 p.m.

In interviews with the Jordan Times, several children, who made the art work displayed, expressed their pride at their creations. They said they were happy being members of the FCC because they have learned artwork.

"I knew how to play with clay before, but now I know how to make nice things," said one boy. Many of the children who attended the opening seemed to be excited at what they saw. One little girl was telling her



Her Majesty Queen Noor attends the opening of the Friends of Children Club's book and crafts fair held at Jabal Luweibdeh park on Tuesday (Petra photo)

mother she wanted to "come here everyday."

Work of FCC

The FCC, established in 1975 to help children develop their artistic talents and potentials, holds various programmes involving children and parents.

In order to achieve a FCC aim to promote public awareness of children's problems and needs in the educational, cultural, social and entertainment fields, the club's activities are numerous and various.

There are regular seminars on child development.

Cooperating with different institutions to improve services offered to children in Jordan, and organising children's courses in fine arts, theatre, reading and publishing books on child growth, are some of the methods used by the club to achieve its aim.

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King and Mubarak review efforts

(Continued from page 1)

ra, said before the King left Amman that his talks with Mr. Mubarak would aim at reaching a joint Arab policy on convening the proposed international conference.

Egypt's Information Minister Saif Sharif told reporters after the first round of talks between the King and Mr. Mubarak that the meeting came within the framework of consultations and continued coordination between the two leaders as well as an emphasis on the strong bonds between the two countries. Mr. Sharif said the talks covered the latest developments in the international arena and the Arab and Palestinian scenes as well as efforts exerted by both countries in search for convening the proposed conference.

While U.S. policy on a peace conference was closer to Mr. Peres than to Mr. Shamir, "we are not prepared to force the government to fall because that's our policy," the official said.

On Monday, the United States declined to publicly take sides in the Israeli government's dispute.

Asked by reporters if Mr. Peres had U.S. support in his efforts to bring about the conference, State Department spokesman Charles Redman declined to give a direct answer.

Asked if Washington was neutral in the debate, he said:

"We're consulting both with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres on a wide range of regional issues that includes the peace process."

Prince Hassan stops in Ma'an on national tour of educational system

MA'AN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday paid a visit to Ma'an Governorate in south Jordan in the course of his regional tour of the country in order to discuss means of developing the Jordanian educational system.

In an address to a meeting of officials, educators and teachers, Prince Hassan described his tour as part of a process designed to pave the way for an overall assessment of the educational system in the Kingdom in cooperation with the concerned parties.

Prince Hassan said that educators ought to work towards deepening the values and concepts of the young, enhancing their sense of national belonging, and better linking education with the needs of development, the community and the labour market.

Jordan, which has a unique central geographical location in the Arab World, should focus its attention on developing manpower skill, Prince Hassan said.

The local community, he added, ought to contribute towards this endeavour and towards the establishment of a sound educational system.

World Bank report

Referring to the country's economic and social standards, Prince Hassan said that he was delighted to read a World Bank's report which revealed that Jordan, along with the United Arab Emirates, was among the world's foremost countries that have realised high economic growth.

Jordan's march towards development commenced with the Great Arab Revolt at the turn of the century, and therefore, it is important that the Jordanian youth taught about the revolt's principles in order to help fulfil its objectives, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that the management of a sound educational process requires attention to research, analysis and sound scientific principles, coupled with dialogue and seminars that focus attention on social and humanitarian issues.

Jordan and Iraq discuss religious issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq Tuesday opened talks to promote their bilateral cooperation in religious affairs, propagating Islamic religion, and teaching the subject at the two countries' schools and religious centres.

The talks are being conducted by Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, and his Iraqi counterpart Abdulla Fadel Abbas who arrived in Amman Monday evening.

He also reviewed measures which the Jordanian government is now taking for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people and preserving Islamic holy places, especially the Al Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock in occupied Arab Jerusalem.

Jordan's measures in this concern, he said, have aborted Israel's attempts aimed at dominating holy and religious places and confiscating Islamic property in the occupied territory.

He also reviewed measures which the Jordanian government is now taking for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people and preserving Islamic holy places, especially the Al Aqsa Mosque, and the Dome of the Rock in occupied Arab Jerusalem.

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Time for new course

RAMADAN is the month in which Muslims renew once again their pledge to submit themselves totally and unreservedly to the Will of God. It is a month for reflection and dedication. Wills strengthened by daylong abstinence and souls purified by nights spent in prayers, they turn to God to repeat their lapses in the past and vow to order their futures in such a way as to win God's pleasure.

It is proper that Ramadan should have been designated as a time for renewal of the pledge. It was the month in which "Was sent down the Koran, as a guide to mankind, also clear (Signs) for guidance and Criterion for judgment (between right and wrong)." Beginning with the first of the revelations, which was sent down on a "Blessed Night" of Ramadan, the Koran gave mankind a philosophy and code of life, in accordance with whose commands and prohibitions Muslims are enjoined to order their lives.

When fasting was made one of the Pillars of the Faith — "O ye who believe, fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may fear God and (earn) self-restraint" — the aim was not that the believers should subject their bodies to torture. Islam does not subscribe to the theory common to so many other philosophies that there is inherent virtue in punishing the body. The needs and passions man is heir to are not evils to be suppressed or exorcised, but are what God, in His infinite Wisdom, wove into the human physique and psyche as a part of His Grand Design. Those passions are not to be denied but restrained. Abstinence from food and drink is only one aspect of a comprehensive scheme of training designed to strengthen the moral fibre of the believer and to teach him to be restrained in his passions and actions.

"And for such as had entertained the fear of standing before their Lord's (tribunal) and had restrained (their) soul from lower desires; their abode will be the Garden (of Bliss)."

Muslims of this generation live in times when the need to restrain their lower desires is more pressing and vital than ever before. Barring few honourable exceptions, our leaders and rulers, whose thoughts and actions have arbitrary power over our present and future, are men who have allowed their lower desires to triumph over "the fear of standing before their Lord's tribunal," and their pursuit of power and personal glory has brought death, damnation and shame on the nation of Islam.

We have strayed far from the course charted for us by the Book sent down to us on that "Blessed Night" in Ramadan. Ramadan gives us an opportunity to correct our course and choose that path which will lead us to God's Mercy — Arab News, Jeddah.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Hopes for Gulf peace

THROUGHOUT the past years of the Iran-Iraq war, Jordan has supported every endeavour for ending the conflict, and will continue to do so with the hope of ending the bloodshed and enabling the two neighbours to live in peace. Jordan believes that this is being fuelled by the enemies of the Arab Nation and Islam, and Arabs and Muslims are paying the price. Therefore, Jordan will appreciate Richard Murphy's tour in the Gulf if it is aimed at achieving genuine peace in that area. But we find it rather hard to believe that this mission would succeed in view of the new revelations about the U.S. arms deal with Iran, and due to the biased attitude of the U.S. administration. Washington has not yet supported its words with actions, and has not taken any steps to actually show the Arabs that Iran would not be supplied with fresh U.S. weapons. We do wish Murphy success in his mission of bringing peace nearer, but any success is closely connected with policies adopted by Washington towards the Arabs and the issues of their region like the Middle East question, and security in the Gulf and also other parts of the world. Unless basic changes in these policies are made, Murphy's mission would be simply an abortive attempt for improving America's image. Unless real changes happen, Washington will remain to be considered as a power that does not give any regard to lives and the interests of other nations but is bent only on protecting its own selfish interests.

Al Dustour: Peres buys time

AS expected, the outcome of the Israeli cabinet meeting showed that Israel will continue to carry on with diplomatic manoeuvres simply to gain time and to abort the international community's conception of an international Middle East peace conference. Despite the accusations and counter accusations by the two parties that form the present coalition government in Israel about options for dealing with the Arabs, everybody can see that their leaders and the Zionist movement at large continue to refuse the principle of swapping land for peace as provided for by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Although the leaders of the two parties: Shamir and Peres have decided Wednesday as the final date for deciding on whether to opt for the international conference or seek early elections, all signs indicate that Peres, who now appears as a staunch supporter of the conference's idea, is trying to gain more time to secure his domination of government affairs and secure the upper hand in all external and internal issues. We believe that the tug-of-war game will continue in Israel until both parties agree on a proper means for blowing up the proposed conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Isolated Israel

A visit by Belgian foreign minister to Israel must have caused an embarrassment for the Israeli leaders because he had gone there to underline the European Community's ideas of establishing peace in the Middle East through an international conference. The heads of the Israeli government do not accept this idea because they are bent on implementing the objectives of the Zionist movement, seeking expansion through aggression. The Jewish state was built on violence and came into being at the expense of the Arab people's sufferings, and has continued to exist through aggression and colonialism, and above all through total rejection of peace. Therefore, any Israeli statements about peace should be regarded as falsehoods, because this Jewish state cannot abandon the course of aggression and seek peace instead. However, Israel now feels totally isolated and surrounded by countries of the world and the United Nations Secretary General who are all demanding an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East.

The following article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

"GREETINGS," said the man, eyeing the audience of about 200 that had gathered at Al Hakawati Theatre in East Jerusalem. "My name is Mohammad Yusuf Suleiman, and I ..." "Not that way," the younger fellow standing next to him whispered. "Over there!" Without blinking Mohammad made half a turn and, addressing the empty table on the stage, started again. "Greetings. My name is Mohammad Yusuf Suleiman, and I want to know why wife's application for family reunion has been rejected." Receiving no response from the empty table, he proceeded to recount the story of his broken family.

Mohammad was only one of many Palestinians attending a public meeting on the issue of family reunification last January. Having received no response to its request for a public encounter with the Israeli authorities, the newly formed Committee for Family Reunion was forced to direct its questions at the name-cards of the officials who had spurned the invitations to attend: Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the heads of the "civilian administration" of the West Bank and Gaza, and the officers in charge of internal affairs in the occupied territories.

"My wife lives in the U.S. and is able to visit me only one month every six months," a man from

Gaza said. His story is typical. Jamal Barghouti, a resident of Bethlehem who chairs the new committee, is only rarely able to be with his Russian wife, Galina, who must stay with Jamal's relatives in Amman as long as her request for family reunification has not been granted by the Israeli authorities. Given current trends, there is not much hope that she will ever receive a residence permit for the West Bank.

The problem of the reunification of Palestinian families is enormous.

The problem of reunification of Palestinian families is enormous. The New York Times reported in January 1986 that the Israeli military authorities had granted only 300 permits for family reunification in 1985. There are no precise figures for the number of applications, but lawyers involved in the issue say that they may run in the thousands. Some families have waited for five years or longer without even a response from the authorities, all the while suffering the pain of living separated lives.

Amira, a young Palestinian woman who holds a Jordanian passport, explained that she had married a resident of the Gaza Strip, but that she had not been granted a residence permit for occupied territories the right to

be reunited with family members or spouses who are living abroad. According to standing regulations, she can now enter Israel and the occupied territories once every six months for a period of one month. Last year she gave birth while visiting her husband in Gaza, but the baby was not given an identity number by the Israeli authorities. Amira has in fact applied several times for her baby to be granted residency in Gaza — so far without success. Israeli officials at the bridge leading to Jordan have told her to continue submitting applications. Amira has also been unable to register her baby in Jordan because the father, after all, is a resident of Gaza. "How can I continue like this?" she queried. "Why don't the Israelis grant my request for family reunion?" And then, staring at the empty space in front of her. "My marriage has been a marriage by correspondence!"

Felicia Langer, an Israeli lawyer who has been active on behalf of Palestinians, has repeatedly stated her frustrations in obtaining family reunification through the courts. She said that all recent cases brought before the Israeli High Court have been flatly rejected. In the most recent case, Langer had submitted to the court the learned opinions of two authorities in international law, Ian Brownlie of Oxford University, and Diana Shulman of Santa Clara University in California. Both unambiguously stated that the Israeli authorities cannot, according to international law, deny Palestinian residents of the

occupied territories the right to

be granted family reunification. Those who choose to leave, even temporarily, from returning, or at least to make it very difficult for them to rejoin home and family. "It is clear," the committee declares in a background paper "that the discrimination applied

at the military authorities implements a policy decision that aims to control the population of the occupied territories. People are not allowed to settle in the occupied territories, and are in fact encouraged to emigrate. The restrictions imposed on the spouses who are not residents are quite unbearable, especially so if children are involved. The fact that any Jew is entitled to enter Israel on demand is in stark contrast to the situation suffered by the Palestinians of the occupied territories wishing to live with his whole family a full 12 months a year."

In spite of this new activist spirit, few Palestinians expect a speedy reversal of the policy. The Israeli authorities have a vested interest in reducing the popula-

tion level in the occupied territories, an interest safeguarded by a variety of means. One tactic has been to put the economic squeeze on Palestinian residents of the territories through such measures as the imposition of exorbitant value-added and income taxes. Another has been to prevent those who choose to leave, even temporarily, from returning, or at least to make it very difficult for them to rejoin home and family. "It is clear," the committee declares in a background paper "that the discrimination applied

The Israeli authorities have a vested interest in reducing the population level of the occupied territories.

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One of the committee's de-

Despite controversy, Central American militarisation quickens

By Bernd Debusmann

Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Central America, long a region of record military growth, is again the focus of an escalated arms build-up by the superpowers with the projected delivery of modern U.S. combat planes to Honduras.

Officials in Honduras have recently said the Reagan administration planned to deliver the first two of 12 F-5 tactical fighter jets in October, another two before the end of the year and the remainder in 1988.

No such timetable was confirmed in Washington but U.S. press reports quoted government sources as saying a request for approval of the \$72 million aircraft deal would be sent to Congress this week.

The highly manoeuvrable F-5s are scheduled to replace French-built Super Mysteres which were refurbished by the Israelis and sold to Honduras in 1977.

European and Latin diplomats in the region said the planned delivery had the potential of kicking off the most serious escalation to date of what has been an unprecedented arms build-up in Central America.

When President Reagan declared in 1981 he would "draw the line against Communism" in Central America, the six Spanish-speaking republics of the area had regular armed forces totalling just under 60,000. Insurgent groups were estimated at around 6,700.

Today, regular forces total almost 200,000 and irregular groups about 35,000, a more than threefold increase in the number of men under arms in less than six years. No other area, not even the Middle East, has experienced such a dramatic process of militarisation, according to military experts.

The build-up began following the 1979 overthrow of U.S.-backed Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza in a broad-based revolution led by leftist Sandinista rebels who are now running Nicaragua.

The U.S. soon accused them of being instruments of the Soviet Union and of trying to export left-wing revolution throughout Central America.

By Brian Mooney

Reuter

LONDON — Voters have three clear choices in national elections in Britain on June 11:

A third term of free enterprise Thatcherism designed to kill off British Socialism, a return to the left-wing values and state intervention of Labour, or a revival of consensus politics under the untested centrist alliance.

One other permutation — a hung parliament in which no party commands an overall majority — would produce a watered-down blend in a coalition government.

This time the electorate may decide the fate of parties and politicians as well as their policies.

If the Conservatives fail, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, 61, will almost certainly be dumped. Her Conservative Party has traditionally dealt ruthlessly with losers.

If Labour leader Neil Kinnock loses, he may also be out of a job and his party could slip over the precipice where it has clung since it was first beaten by Thatcher in 1979 after lengthy spells of power in the 1960s and 70s.

The Labour Party has modernised and reshaped under Kinnock, 45, and its policies are essentially moderate. But it has failed to shake off an electorally-damaging far left and is disunited.

Some commentators say the six-year-old alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats is poised to replace Labour as the main opposition but others believe Britain's winner-takes-all voting system makes an alliance breakdown improbable.

Thatcher is a known quantity — a hard-nosed, no-nonsense matron who evokes extremes of deep respect and fierce antagonism. She is greatly respected abroad.

Kinnock has never held elected office. He has an engaging manner, charm and zeal and believes passionately that his style of caring politics is in tune with the country's needs.

The ideological battle lines of the election are defined by sharp differences between Conservatives and Labourites on almost all issues.

Thatcher's Conservatives aim to reduce further the role of the state, reinforcing their instinctive belief that market forces should

control people's lives rather than governments.

Labour, on the other hand, proclaims a stronger role for the state and wants to give trade unions back some of the influence they have lost under Thatcher.

It favours a mixed economy but advocates increased public spending, higher taxation and more welfare provisions.

The Conservative vision is of a leaner, tougher country, where people are geared to competition and less coddled by the welfare cushion built into the system since World War II.

Labour says this is a recipe for a divided society with a permanent under-class. Kinnock believes it will mean a nation where "if you can't pay your way, you'll have to stay away."

The Conservative-Labour divide cuts deep into defence.

Labour wants to go no-nonsense. It is pledged to decommission Britain's Polaris nuclear deterrent and cancel plans to replace it with the U.S. Trident system.

Labour says it will also negotiate withdrawal of all American nuclear weapons based in Britain but insists that it would keep Britain a loyal member of the NATO alliance. The money

saved on scrapping nuclear weapons would be spent beefing up conventional forces.

The Conservatives say Labour's defence policy would destabilise NATO and weaken the West's hand in disarmament negotiations with Moscow.

The alliance has compromised on defence by pledging to scrap Trident but keep the ageing Polaris system in the hope it can be negotiated away.

British membership of NATO and the European Community (EC) are unchallenged. All parties have also signalled readiness for full British membership of the European Monetary System (EMS).

It also plans a crash £3.6 billion (\$6 billion) programme to boost pension and welfare benefits, financed by taxing the richest five per cent of the population.

Labour is committed to reversing most of Thatcher's denationalisation programme under which she has reduced the state sector of the economy by 40 per cent.

The Conservatives say Labour's plans will require a massive increase in public spending and trigger a financial crisis.

If the Conservatives win, they will radically restructure local government and continue denationalising, leaving only the state health and education services untouched, although both will be overhauled.

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The press in U.S.: The once unmentionable now front-page fodder

By W. Dale Nelson

The Associated Press

Are we a gloomy people?

By Nermene Murrad
Special to the Jordan Times

Bad news

JORDANIANS are by no means gloomy people by nature. Their serious disposition is the product of overwhelming environmental forces influencing their psyche and shaping their attitudes towards humour and laughter.

This is the consensus of sociologists and psychiatrists, interviewed by the Jordan Times, who blame socio-economic problems, political uncertainties as well as what they describe as "cultural schizophrenia," to be the cause of the apparent state of depression.

The situation, they say, is exacerbated by daily snags that, to varying degrees, hit the average person.

Dr. Abdallah Al Khatib, in a recent column published in the Al Rai newspaper, said that what constitutes a serious disposition is the "tension that covers the faces of the majority of citizens and the exaggerated seriousness expressed in the tone of their voices and violence in their movement and physical expression."

Dr. Sari Nasir, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan, believes that "gloominess" is very relative. "If we compare ourselves to Egyptians we are definitely gloomy," he said. Egyptians have learned to use humour as a means of releasing tension, and to them it has become a way of alleviating stress. "At a conference I attended in Egypt, one of the foreign speakers arrived late and apologised for the delay citing jet lag," Dr. Nasir recalled. "My immediate reaction was to feel pity for the man, but an Egyptian colleague of mine came out with the funniest comment about 'timing.' It struck me then that we had completely different reactions and that mine was too serious."

According to Dr. Nasir, a sense of humour can only be acquired after we learn to "laugh at ourselves." Jordanians "take themselves so seriously, they don't even dare laugh at themselves," he said.

The media, according to Dr. Nasir, "promote a sense of failure ... They select the most horrible news and tell you about it." This, he said, "contributes to our serious posture."

"How do you think I feel when television news inform me that the Israeli occupation authorities have confiscated 5,000 more dunums of Arab land? I feel helpless. Why are they telling me? What can I do about it?" Dr. Nasir believes that bad news should somehow be offset by positive or good ones.

Jordanians' gloominess could also be the result of permanent inhibitions caused by a desperate attempt by ethnic groups in society to hold on to their traditions coupled with their feeling of uncertainty about the future.

Dr. Nasir pointed out that the majority of the population are originally immigrants or refugees who came to Jordan after they were persecuted in their home countries. He was referring to Palestinians who were evicted in 1948 and 1967 by the Israeli occupation, Syrians by the French colonialists and other minority groups such as Circassians, Armenians and Shishanis.

The groups, he explained, have influenced the overall disposition of Jordanians. "Each group is trying to hold on to its own culture, afraid to assimilate," he said.

Dr. Garabed Zakarian, an Armenian psychiatrist, disagrees on this point as he believes the society's heterogeneity should not reflect negatively on Jordanians. He said that different ethnic groups bring in fresh ideas and new thoughts which if integrated into society create a lively multi-culture. As for refugees who still experience the need to return home, he added, this situation would understandably create a state of stress.

Dr. Ahmad Khalaf, also a psychiatrist, said that by nature, people have an inherent fear of the unknown caused by the prevailing political uncertainties in the region.



People in downtown Amman (File photo)

retired and their dependents. The Ministry of Social Development is entrusted to extend this programme to the needy from the rest of the population. The army, as an institution, extends the same services to currently enlisted servicemen, the retired and their dependents. That leaves a large part of the population uncovered.

Young women's dreams of the day when prince charming comes on a white horse to carry them off to a life of settlement, security and contentment, is no longer a guaranteed eventuality. Young men in Jordan are reluctant to make the step towards marriage because of their inability to cope with the huge financial strings attached to it.

The overwhelming flow of information from the society had adverse effects contributing to already existing depressing elements. In the past we had a limited flow of information and people's intake was smaller than that of the younger generation of today. The new trend, psychiatrists say, is towards more knowledge-oriented studies, more cultural synergy and more exposure to the rest of the world.

Lost family ties
Dr. Khalaf, went further to say that there is a growing feeling of individualism, imported from the West, which is fast becoming a recipe for conflict between the young and the old. As soon as the boy or girl reaches the age of 18, independence, which sometimes entails losing their ties with their families, becomes a major goal. This would not have been a problem, says Dr. Khalaf, should young people find security in a new group of friends. However, this is not always the case, and many times, a person is lost with the absence of family ties. "A state of continued anxiousness and edginess grips the individual in question," Dr. Khalaf said.

Summarising the relationship between parents and their children, Dr. Khalaf said that "the 'not welcome' policy hoping that one day they will clear off. They did, but, only after frowning became our habit. Pessimism and scepticism may be the inevitable outcome of our reality but wise men always believed that everyday that passes should be well and truly spent and that hearts should always be lifted in gratitude.

On the Western culture's influence on the Jordanian society, Dr. Zakarian said "it should not necessarily spell disaster because new ideas brought in from the West could provide new directions which could help in society's development into a better place."

Establishing centres of recreation seems to be the psychiatrists and sociologists agreed-upon solution for relieving our stress. They also prescribe comedies, theatres and other educational programmes. Dr. Zakarian said, "Changes do not occur overnight, I advise very strongly that we should increase our cultural centres, theatres, books, libraries and highly educational programmes."

Commenting on the psychiatrists' statements, a Jordanian journalist agreed that the problem was partly historical: "For over 600 years we have been at odds with colonialists from the Ottomans to Churchill using the 'not welcome' policy hoping that one day they will clear off. They did, but, only after frowning became our habit. Pessimism and scepticism may be the inevitable outcome of our reality but wise men always believed that everyday that passes should be well and truly spent and that hearts should always be lifted in gratitude.

At the turn of the century, Elia Madi, a contemporary poet, captured the spirit of this in a poem entitled, "Smile":

"He said the sky is gloomy, and frowned,
I said smile, suffice the abyss in the sky."

Jordan rejects report role

(Continued from page 1) the conference officially," Mr. Khatib was quoted as saying by Reuters.

He said all the main parties should officially announce their acceptance of the conference, adding: "Once this is done, the next step will be for the U.N. secretary general to issue invitation to all the parties, including the Security Council's permanent members."

"Israel has not formally accepted the conference," the minister pointed out.

"All this talk is kite flying to test public opinion," Mr. Khatib said and drew attention to a statement made by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai earlier this month.

Mr. Rifai, denying reports of contacts and agreements between Jordan and Israel over the international conference, said all efforts towards convening the conference were futile as long as Israel rejected the principle of holding it.

"As is well known, Jordan insists on the necessity of inviting the PLO to attend the conference," Mr. Rifai said in the May 3 statement, which was carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Rifai said parties to the conference should accept that the principle of convening it was aimed at setting the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and renounce terror and violence.

The Belgian foreign minister, Mr. Tindemans, in a news conference before his departure from Israel after a two-day visit on Monday, said that he had found Arab states favouring a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the proposed conference. "With a mixed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, there could be contacts with the PLO associated in a certain way."

He said that he ended a tour of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia last month "with more than the satisfaction that direct representation of the PLO was not accepted."

Cairo, Riyadh deny opposition to PLO

On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia and

Giant machine readied to study secrets of universe

By Dean Lokken
Reuters

PALO ALTO, California — American scientists have built a huge machine, shaped like a two-mile-long tennis racket, that they plan to put into operation this summer to study one of the tiniest components of the universe.

If it works as predicted, the Stanford Linear Collider (SLC) will produce a subatomic particle known as "The Z" which physicists hope will help explain the evolution of the universe.

The Z is one of man's most elusive discoveries. Only a few dozen have been detected since European scientists discovered them in 1983.

Physicists can produce Z particles by smashing electrons and positrons together and believe that, by studying the split-second life of the tiny particles, they will learn much about the building blocks of nature and the forces that hold them together.

Scientists from 14 European nations have embarked on a similar venture and are building a \$1-billion gigantic accelerator, with a circumference of some 16 miles, at Geneva.

But that accelerator is not scheduled for completion until 1989 and will cost about five times as much as the American one.

Dr. Ghali was quoted as saying he thought that diplomacy would find a compromise formula with the PLO's insistence on direct representation at any conference.

The Egyptian minister, referring to differing Israeli views on the conference and its objectives, said: "I believe the different points of view can be reconciled through negotiations and more negotiations until we reach a common position on the conference and its procedures."

Dr. Ghali stressed that Cairo's closure of PLO offices last month did not mean a change of policy in support of Palestinian rights.

Dr. Ghali said Cairo did not expect to receive an invitation to the next Arab summit conference "because the summit would be held within the framework of the Arab League."

McFarlane retracts earlier denial

(Continued from page 1) of with the contras and the unintended recipient had withdrawn the money.

The bank has filed criminal charges for the return of the money, he added.

Mr. Reagan denied on Tuesday that he solicited third-country aid for Nicaraguan rebels and said he knew nothing of "tramps" getting a guided White House tour (See page 2) during arms-for-hostages negotiations.

Mr. Reagan was asked by re-



Stanford University researchers have unveiled this \$115.4 million linear collider they will use to probe the nature of matter. They hope to use the 4.8 kilometre collider to produce Z particles, the smallest known particles in the universe.

trons to the left around what resembles the head of a tennis racket.

The two beams, each one-25th as thick as a human hair, collide at the top of the racquet, producing hundreds of new particles, including The Z.

Although the point of collision is microscopic, the scientists have constructed huge detector devices in a building the size of an enormous jetliner hangar.

The detectors will record the brief lives of The Z particles, and the data will be analysed by more than 100 researchers at the accelerator.

Scientists hope to gather enough information to help prove or disprove "the theory of everything" — their supposition that the four basic forces of nature can be tied together in one grand and tidy theory.

"That's our holy grail — the search for the unification," said Sidney Drell, deputy director of

the Stanford Linear Accelerator Centre.

He added: "It's the religion of scientists that something out there unifies all these forces."

The four forces are gravity, electromagnetism, strong (or nuclear) and weak forces. The Z particle, the least understood of the four, carries the weak force.

The SLC scientists plan to produce 500-1,000 Z particles by the end of October, then gradually increase the number to between 100,000 and 200,000 before CERN goes into operation.

When fully operational in the early 1990s, SLC should be producing one to two million Zs a year.

So sensitive is the linear collider that changes in temperature can throw off the critical alignment of the instruments. A truck striking even a small rock on the roadway overhead can cause the machine to miss a pulse or two of the electron and positron beams.

Richter believes his giant machine has a two-fold mission.

On one hand, he said, it should help satisfy intellectual curiosity about how the universe was created.

On the other, identifying the building blocks of the universe and the glue that holds them together will help man control nature better.

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Why there are fewer holes in Cork's roads

By Terry Dodsworth

WHEN a gas pipe repairman starts to dig up a road in most cities, he will probably have only an approximate idea where the electricity mains supply runs, or if there are telephone cables nearby. In many cases, he will also be working with a map which is not entirely up to date, and he could arrive on site to find that the local authority has embarked on major road works without his knowledge.

These are the sort of problems

which the U.K. arm of Inter-

graph, the U.S. computer

graphics group, set out to solve

recently in the city of Cork in

Ireland. Its answer is a computerised

database and mapping system

which aims to plot the location

and precise details of every

Mecir crashes out of Italian Open

ROME (R) — Top two seeds Ivan Lendl and Mats Wilander reached the second round of the Italian Open Men's Tennis Championship in contrasting style Tuesday, but number three Miroslav Mecir tumbled out.

Czechoslovak Mecir was the victim of the first major upset in the \$495,000 tournament when he was beaten 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 by Sweden's Anders Jarryd.

World number one and Czechoslovak defending champion Lendl gained an overpowering 6-2, 6-3 win against Italian Claudio Panatta, who failed to display the fight and flair with which his brother Adriano was renowned in the Foro Italico a decade ago.

Second-seeded Wilander, who will be one of the main threats when Lendl defends his French Open title later this month, beat Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union also by 6-2, 6-3 but was made to sweat for every point.

While Lendl was winning with consummate ease, the Swede was detained on court for almost two hours by the Russian, who

inflicted a crushing defeat on Wilander in last year's French Open in Paris.

Jarryd's success provides a timely boost after a series of injuries resulted in the Swede, ranked fifth in the world 18 months ago, plummeting down the ratings. Now he could wreak havoc in the French Open as an unseeded player.

Mecir, known as the 'Big Cat' because of his stealthy and deceptively languid approach, contented himself with basking in the sun throughout the first set.

The Czechoslovak lost the first five games as though he did not have a care in the world before suddenly showing his claws at the start of the second, which he dominated with angled returns and cunning lobs.

But Jarryd is one of the most intelligent players on the circuit

and he raced into a 5-1 lead in the final set before Mecir realised the danger when he faced three match points.

The Czechoslovak, who has been taking medication for the past seven weeks due to a respiratory complaint, survived the crisis to the delight of the Italian fans and pulled back to 5-4 before Jarryd served out for the match.

"He's not the easiest of opponents," said Jarryd. "He has a tremendous record against us Swedes and it was nice to beat him at his own game."

Mecir, who had trouble with his breathing throughout, said: "I didn't feel like playing here, but I didn't feel bad enough to justify pulling out. Almost from the first point, I felt really weak."

Jackie Stewart's son to take up motor racing

LONDON (R) — Paul Stewart, whose father Jackie Stewart was world motor-racing champion three times, said Tuesday he was taking up the sport.

The 21-year-old Scot, who will compete in a series of Formula Ford races starting in May, has never driven competitively but performed impressively at a drivers' course at Brands Hatch.

Stewart said: "Formula One would certainly be an ambition if things work out but that is a long way along the road."

His father was initially against the idea and refused to help him financially. Although he changed his mind after hearing how well he had done at Brands Hatch, the money is coming from sponsors.

Paul, who is studying politics and law at university in North Carolina, entered the drivers' course under an assumed name to avoid publicity and the possibility of an over favourable assessment.

Jackie Stewart, world champion in 1969, 71 and 73, said: "If he really wants to do it then I am not going to stop him."

But he added: "I suppose if you really love your children you just don't want them to get involved in something like this, although I was exactly the same with my parents."

His son will wear a tartan helmet similar to the one made famous by his father in his career which brought a record 27 Grand Prix victories.

BONN (Agencies) — European Cup finalists Bayern Munich have agreed on terms for the transfer of striker Juergen Wegmann, 23, from West German First Division club Schalke.

Schalke said Bayern would pay 1.15 million marks (\$650,000) for Wegmann, who is the second striker bought by the West German league leaders for next season.

Bayern, whose veteran centre-forward Dieter Hoenes retires after the European Cup final with Porto on May 27, have already signed Uwe Tschiske from Second Division club Wattenscheid.

In another transfer deal, the league's leading scorer Fritz Walter of Waldhof Mannheim will sign for Stuttgart on Wednesday. Walter, 26, has scored 20 goals this season.

In Moenchengladbach, West Germany, West German soccer club Borussia Moenchengladbach said Tuesday they had rejected a bid by Dutch Champions PSV Eindhoven for midfielder UWE Rahn.

Borussia manager Helmut Grashoff said Eindhoven's offer of four million marks (\$2.25 million).

Allofs was not high enough for the 24-year-old player.

The Dutch club said earlier they had agreed terms with Rahn, whom they want to fill the gap caused next season by the departure of Ruud Gullit to AC Milan. Gullit will cost the Italian club 17 million guilders (\$8.5 million).

"We don't want to give Rahn away," Grashoff said. "We would only let him go for an amount which would bowl us over."

Allofs signs for Marseille

In Cologne, West Germany, West German soccer captain Klaus Allofs said Tuesday that he had signed a three-year contract to play for French league leaders Marseille from next season.

Allofs, 30, made the announcement after returning from Paris where he met Marseille president Bernard Tapie on Monday to discuss the deal.

His club Cologne will receive a fee of 2.4 million marks (\$1.3 million).

Allofs, a striker who played for West Germany in last year's World Cup final in Mexico, re-

cently won his 50th cap for his country. He was appointed captain of the national team this season.

Wimbledon manager resigns

In Wimbledon, Dave Bassett, who guided English soccer club Wimbledon from non-league obscurity to sixth in the first division, has quit as manager.

Bassett's shock resignation fuelled rumors that he might take over the vacant management of Aston Villa, a much richer club which last Friday sacked its manager after being relegated to division two.

The colourful 42-year-old Londoner dropped his bombshell after a meeting with Wimbledon's chairman, Lebanese millionaire Sam Hammam.

Bassett said: "I have today given notice to Wimbledon Football Club in accordance with the terms of my present contract of appointment."

"My reasons for taking this action are several and there are certain relevant matters which are, and must remain, confidential between me and the club."

IOC border crossing important but not essential, says Samaranch

ISTANBUL (R) — A mission seeking to resolve the North-South row over sharing the 1988 Olympics will go to Pyongyang even if it is not allowed to cross the border between the two Koreas. International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Tuesday.

The IOC is to send a delegation to the North Korean capital later this month in its efforts to iron out the dispute over sharing the games.

Samaranch wants the delegation to travel from Pyongyang to Seoul via Panmunjom, across the demilitarised zone which has di-

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vided the two countries since the end of the Korean war in 1953. The aim would be to check the border crossing problems which would have to be resolved if the games are to be shared between North and South.

"If they refuse to open the border we will still go (to Pyongyang). We will not close the door, but we would be very disappointed," Samaranch told a news conference.

Speaking at the end of the 92nd IOC session, Samaranch said the North Korean delegation in Istanbul had agreed to receive an IOC delegation in Pyongyang. He added that North Korea's

agreement to open up the border would be regarded as a gesture of goodwill.

He expected a reply next week to whether the mission, to be led by Romanian IOC member Alexandru Sipero, would be permitted to cross the border.

The Pyongyang visit is intended to prepare the ground for the fourth round of bilateral talks between North and South Korean Olympic officials at the IOC's Lausanne headquarters on July 14-15.

North Korea, which originally threatened to lead a communist boycott if it was not granted half the 23 sports in the games, has refused to accept an IOC compromise offer of archery, table tennis and some soccer and cycling.

It has insisted on being given eight full sports and Samaranch said he had detected no change in Pyongyang's position during his discussions in Istanbul.

Both sides stress that time is running out in the search for a solution.

North Korea, which originally threatened to lead a communist boycott if it was not granted half the 23 sports in the games, has refused to accept an IOC compromise offer of archery, table tennis and some soccer and cycling.

"Tottenham Hotspur play

Coventry City in the English F.A. Cup final on Saturday, a meeting between one of the country's aristocrat clubs and a side that for the last 20 years has maintained a fragile hold on First Division life.

The Lady Godiva legend —

tradition has it that 900 years ago,

mounted on horseback, she rode

through Coventry to bring

concessions for the local citizens

from the Earl of Chester, her

husband — is a story that has a place in English folklore. Coventry city F.C. enjoys no such

final at Wembley Stadium for the first time. They continued to try in vain until a Sunday last month when they beat Leeds United 3-2 in extra time of their cup semi-final to book next Saturday's appointment with Tottenham.

Just as in the hill years, it is the management team off the field that is being given the credit for Coventry's achievement. Managing director George Curtis and chief coach John Sillett played together for the club in the 1960s and have come together again to accomplish what remained an unfulfilled ambition.

Curtis, a miner's son, who

joined Coventry as a player 32

years ago, is particularly excited

about his team's F.A. Cup run.

For it has finally expunged

the memory of that defeat by

King's Lynn, a match in which he

played.

"That was undoubtedly the

darkest cup day in our history,"

says Curtis, recalling the King's Lynn game.

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Date: 13/05/1987
Loan No.: 82-65-185
IFB No.: 09/87/WM

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau in Deutsche Marks towards the Zarqa-Ruseifa Water and Sewerage Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from bidders in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Land Berlin (eligible bidders) for the supply of 1/2" water metres.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the Office of the President, Water Authority, Nablus Street, Jabal Hussein, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan, Tel. 666111, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO.
4. A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of JD 6,000 and must be delivered to the office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Wednesday, 01 July 1987.

Eng. M.S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY CO. LTD THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN SIXTH POWER PROJECT LOAN 2710-0-JO

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the supply CIF AQABA OF KILOWATT HOUR METERS AND MINIATURE CIRCUIT BREAKERS and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the above goods (TENDER 11/86).
2. The Irbid District Electricity Company now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply CIF AQABA OF KILOWATT HOUR METERS AND MINIATURE CIRCUIT BREAKERS.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and be able to inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

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P.O. Box 46 Irbid - Jordan
Telex 31528 KHRBCO JO
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of 50 U.S. dollars or JD equivalent.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than 2% of the bid price and must be delivered to the above office or before 1200 HRS ON 22/6/1987.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Tuesday.
One Sterling 1.6643/53
One U.S. dollar 1.3365/75
1.7875/85
2.0155/65
1.4680/90
37.09/11
5.9740/90
1293/1294
139.55/65
6.2500/50
6.6500/50
6.7225/75
One ounce of gold 459.60/460.10
U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar
West German marks
Dutch guilders
Swiss francs
Belgian francs
French francs
Italian lira
Japanese yen
Swedish crown
Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns
U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities stood near the day's lows in late trading, although profit-taking which spilled over from Monday eased off Tuesday afternoon, dealers said.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 26.5 points at 2,136.8 after a fall of 2,132.4 at 0927 GMT. Shares moved lower at the outset amid a sense of anti-climax after Monday's June 11 general election call, but dealers said light bargain hunting at the lows helped to break the decline.

Tuesday's easier trend on Wall Street fuelled the early downturn but dealers said domestic factors continued to be the major influence on the London market.

One dealer said trading in equities and gilts will continue to be nervous and relatively thin ahead of the election date.

"The market is already top-heavy, and any adverse factors — even if they are only small — will have a drastic effect on prices," he said.

Opinion polls are likely to have a major effect on the market, and any slippage in the Tory party lead would hurt the equity and gilt markets, since it makes the possibility of a "bung parliament" more likely, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today's full moon brings you the opportunity to delve into whatever practical matters require your attention. Use considerable diplomacy if you make any changes.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Worried talks are required today if you are to take advantage of the good aspects. You are full of energy now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A clever associate has wise ideas for gaining quite a few assets, so be helpful and get your share of them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Even if the work you have to do is not very much fun, get at it early and be done with it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan your time more intelligently and you can devote your hours between your mate and friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Many situations arise to help you know better where you stand. If an argument arises, don't enter into it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) The full moon can bring you good ideas. You can add to your present set-up and make real progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have ideas that need to be expressed in practical terms if you are to get the financial backing you need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) An associate may not agree with you now, but you can persevere and convince him; or her; and get fine results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try not to let some personal matter stand in the way of the duties ahead of you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to give a party that will help your mate and your friends come to a better understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get civic and credit affairs handled. Postpone entertaining at home until a better day and time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine ideas for becoming more skillful at your work. Be very courteous with others today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, is apt to jump from a practical activity to a personal one and not accomplish very much of either, so teach this one the importance of perseverance. This will bring your progeny much success. Also teach this child to listen to others.

THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1 At any time

5 " — Billie"

14 Diamond

15 Free time

16 Clothing city

17 Speak

20 Actor Ron —

21 Tree homes.

22 Like some

23 Fiber

24 Author Fleming

25 Cricket

33 Aspares

34 Pueblo Indians

35 Window dressing

37 Roles

38 Shender

39 Assistant

41 Scream

42 Speak angrily

45 Explosive letters

46 Tax agency letters

47 NY city

50 Toss

53 In favor of

56 Cab

58 River into the Spine

60 Ride at anchor

61 Silverware

62 Time cycles

64 Very small

65 Down

67 Canned

71 Kinsman's

72 cousin

74 Corn grain

75 Airm

76 Polka

77 Help in wrongdoing

78 Town word

80 Sarcasm

81 Sarcasm

82 Forest animal

84 US supreme Court justice

85 Feed the kitty

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

10 Impression

16 Part of USSR

19 Approaches

23 Shape

24 Wedding bird

25 Grope

26 Shirley

27 Temple film

27 Source of vegetation

28 Residence

29 Smoking swords

30 Code of moral values

31 Kinsman's land

32 Sea eagles

33 Asteroid

37 Basalt

38 " — can't be known..."

40 Hair coloring

41 Sweet fatty

42 Sarcasm

43 Bureaucracy

44 US supreme Court justice

45 Peacock

47 Indian

48 Retired

49 "Blow. Free!"

50 heroine

51 Actor Mischa

52 Phoenix

53 Persian fairy

54 Shower

55 Approve

57 Kept abbr.

58 No longer working: abbr.

Japan spells out plans to assist Third World

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Tuesday spelled out Japan's plans to contribute \$20 billion over the next three years to Third World countries.

The plans were first announced last month in Washington by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's personal envoy, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

Until now, many of the details of the proposal have been undisclosed, fuelling suspicions that there was less to the idea than met the eye.

The United States and Third World nations have been pushing Japan to use the benefits of its mammoth trade surplus to help the developing world.

Mr. Miyazawa told a parliamentary committee Tuesday the Export-Import Bank of

Japan will loan \$3 billion to developing countries over the next three years. The loans would not have to be used to purchase Japanese goods.

\$9 billion will be provided by the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and other Japanese government agencies along with international financial institutions like the World Bank and with commercial banks.

The final \$8 billion would be provided to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other regional development banks.

Part of this would be met by allowing those organisations to borrow more from private Japanese investors. The rest would come from the Japanese government.

UNESCO begins debating budget problems today

PARIS (R) — UNESCO's executive board opens a five-week session Wednesday with problems

the critical phase."

Officials and diplomats say there's now a consensus on the need to avoid divisive political clashes — one of the reasons cited by the Reagan administration for its pullout.

Officials say Mr. M'Bow, whose second six-year mandate ends in November, will ask the board to approve meeting the deficit and finding a successor to controversial Director-General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow.

The troubled United Nations agency for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) has already suspended some programmes and cut nearly 800 staff to cope with a 30 per cent cut in its income caused by the withdrawal of the United States, Britain and Singapore.

Now its budget worries have been aggravated by a fall in the U.S. dollar, the currency in which most member states pay their dues.

Spokesman Doudou Diene says that with many states reluctant to pay up, all U.N. agencies are now suffering the same problems that bit UNESCO in 1985 — the first year without the Americans.

But, he told a news conference this week, "UNESCO is out of

S. Arabia unveils first share trading floor

RIYADH (R) — Quietly, without fanfare, Saudi Arabia has unveiled its first stock exchange trading floor in a move seen by bankers as major step towards liberalising the kingdom's financial system.

Bankers said a central trading hall was opened in Riyadh's business district Monday and some 3,000 shares changed hands in the exchange's first official two-house session.

None of the celebration surrounding the recent "Big Bang" relaunch of share trading in London — not even an official announcement — the opening reflected the low-key approach Saudi authorities have taken to financial reform in the richest Arab nation, bankers said.

Over the past months, share traders from each of Saudi Arabia's 11 commercial banks have been quietly trained ahead of the launch, but bankers said it was unclear until Monday when the new exchange floor would go live.

Previously, the 46 major Saudi Arabian listed companies and banks had been traded by telephone and telex without a physical trading floor.

Bankers said trading on Monday was to a fairly slow start, with investors still uncertain about how the new system would work and turnover based on three large contracts.

But share prices have been rising strongly in anticipation of the exchange, helped also as steadier world oil prices foster a modest recovery in Saudi Arabia's economy.

While the rise in share prices has been taken as a healthy sign

for the kingdom's investment climate, bankers said Saudi authorities want to avoid a speculative wave of trading.

The \$90 billion crash in 1982 of Kuwait's unofficial stock market, the Souk Al Manakh, still haunts the Arab World and slowed the development of stock exchanges in the region.

The Saudi exchange is part of a wider programme of liberalisation of the kingdom's financial system that has emerged this year, bankers said.

Removal of withholding tax allowed the 11 commercial banks to participate in the lucrative world of investment banking outside Saudi Arabia. Previously the tax had made this punitive expensive.

In addition, a new committee is being formed to hear disputes between banks and creditors. A growing number of non-performing

loans has eaten heavily into bank profits.

The new stock exchange will trade from 11 a.m. to one p.m. local time, with prices of major shares displayed on a big board. Bankers said shares are

